

Submitted Testimony of the Distributed Wind Energy Association
Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions
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Organization: North Coast Energy Systems (NCES)

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(DWEA)

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I am Joe DiFrancisco, Owner of North Coast Energy Systems and Founding Member of the Distributed Wind Energy Association (DWEA). I submit this testimony as the owner of NCES and an active member of (DWEA)

North Coast Energy Systems (NCES) is a family owned business operating out of Erie, Pennsylvania and serving the tri-state area (OH, PA, NY). NCES is engaged in the sales, installation, and design of renewable energy systems, including small wind turbines, photovoltaic (PV) solar, micro-hydroelectric and hybrid systems. We also focus strongly on energy efficiency and the education/consultation of appropriate zoning and permitting of renewable technologies; a subject that the DOE has determined to be the greatest barrier to the integration of small wind energy in the US.

The Distributed Wind Energy Association (DWEA) is a national trade association comprised of wind energy component manufacturers, distributors, project developers, dealers, installers, and advocates, whose primary mission is to promote and foster all aspects of the US distributed wind energy industry. DWEA has dozens of member companies located throughout the United States of which NCES is a founding member.

“Distributed wind,” also commonly referred to as “small” or “community wind,” involves the use of typically smaller wind turbines at homes, farms, businesses, and public facilities to off-set all or a portion of on-site energy consumption. This segment of the renewable energy industry already represents approximately \$2 billion in new energy infrastructure for America’s rural communities and commercial and industrial energy consumers on an annualized basis.

Also, more than 80 percent of distributed wind turbines sold in the U.S. are manufactured here at home. We here at NCES only sell and install domestically sourced Small Wind Turbine equipment and Photovoltaic (PV) Solar equipment. American jobs are of utmost priority to us and our suppliers. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on certain expiring provisions that significantly impact our industry.

We urge the House Ways and Means Committee to approve and send to the full House of Representatives legislation that would immediately extend the § 48 ITC election through 2016 for all sizes of wind power projects. An ITC extension would maintain a level playing field among competing renewable energy technologies, provide business certainty to the smaller segments of the wind energy industry that are generally unable to utilize the PTC, and enable it to continue to deploy clean renewable, domestically produced energy, using American made equipment, to drive economic growth and job creation in communities across the country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continued expansion of this dynamic and growing American industry.

Sincerely,

Joe DiFrancisco

Owner, North Coast Energy Systems

NABCEP Certified Solar PV Installer

NABCEP Certified Small Wind Turbine Installer

NYSERDA Eligible PV & Wind Installer

PA Sunshine Program Approved PV Installer

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